

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application. Please cancel claims 1-20.

Claims:

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a substance as an antiviral therapy, comprising the steps of
- a) exposing a substance to a protein selected from the group consisting of the *MAB1*, *MAB2*, *MAB3* or *OLE1* expression products, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the stability of the expression product, wherein the inhibition of the expression product indicates that the substance is a possible antiviral therapy.
22. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a substance as an antiviral therapy, comprising the steps of
- a) exposing a substance to a protein selected from the group consisting of the *MAB1*, *MAB2*, *MAB3* or *OLE1* expression products, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the stability of the expression product, wherein the inhibition of the expression product indicates that the substance is a possible antiviral therapy.
23. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a substance as antiviral therapy, comprising the step of
- a) exposing the substance to a protein expression system, wherein the system expresses a protein selected from the group consisting of *MAB1*, *MAB2*, *MAB3* or *OLE1* expression products, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the expression level of the expression product, wherein the inhibition of the expression level indicates that the substance is a possible antiviral therapy.
24. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a substance as an antiviral therapy, comprising the step of

- a) exposing a substance to a transcription system, wherein the system transcribes an mRNA product selected from the group consisting of *MAB1*, *MAB2*, *MAB3* or *OLE1* mRNAs, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the expression level of the mRNA product, wherein the inhibition of the expression level indicates that the substance is a possible antiviral therapy.
25. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a substance as an antiviral therapy, comprising the step of
- a) exposing a substance to a transcription system, wherein the system transcribes an mRNA product selected from the group consisting of *MAB1*, *MAB2*, *MAB3* or *OLE1* mRNAs, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the stability of the mRNA product, wherein the decrease in stability indicates that the substance is a possible antiviral therapy.
26. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating a substance as a positive strand RNA antiviral agent, comprising the steps of
- a) exposing a substance to a yeast or mammalian $\Delta 9$ fatty acid desaturase enzyme, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the stability of the enzyme, wherein decrease in stability indicates that the substance is [[a]] an antiviral agent against positive strand RNA virus antiviral agent.
27. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating a substance as a positive strand RNA antiviral agent, comprising the steps of
- a) exposing a substance to a yeast or mammalian $\Delta 9$ fatty acid desaturase enzyme, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the activity of the enzyme, wherein the inhibition of activity indicates that the substance is [[a]] an antiviral agent against positive strand RNA virus antiviral agent.
28. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a substance as antiviral therapy, comprising the step of

- a) exposing a substance to a protein expression system, wherein the system expresses a $\Delta 9$ fatty acid desaturase enzyme, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the expression level of the enzyme, wherein the inhibition of the expression level indicates that the substance is a possible antiviral therapy.
29. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a substance as an antiviral therapy, comprising the step of
- a) exposing a substance to a transcription system, wherein the system transcribes a $\Delta 9$ fatty acid desaturase enzyme mRNA product, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the expression level of the mRNA product, wherein the inhibition of the expression level indicates that the substance is a possible antiviral therapy.
30. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a substance as an antiviral therapy, comprising the step of
- a) exposing a substance to a transcription system, wherein the system transcribes a $\Delta 9$ fatty acid desaturase enzyme mRNA product, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the stability of the mRNA product, wherein the decrease in stability indicates that the substance is a possible antiviral therapy.
31. (New) A method of evaluating a substance as a positive strand RNA antiviral agent, comprising the steps of
- a) exposing a substance to yeast OLE1 desaturase enzyme, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the stability of the enzyme, wherein decrease in stability indicates that the substance is an antiviral agent against positive strand RNA virus.
32. (New) A method of evaluating a substance as a positive strand RNA antiviral agent, comprising the steps of
- a) exposing a substance to a yeast OLE1 desaturase enzyme, and
 - b) evaluating the effect of the substance on the activity of the enzyme, wherein the inhibition of activity indicates that the substance is an antiviral agent against positive strand RNA virus.